

Considerable deficiencies were noted in New England, near the coast to southward of Chesapeake Bay, especially over the Florida Peninsula, from Illinois westward and southwestward to the western borders of Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma; and over most of the Plateau States, California, and western Oregon.

The scanty rainfall in Florida was very unfavorable, as drought prevailed over large portions of the State when the month began. In California the light precipitation during the month in most counties was considered unfortunate in its probable effects on the summer water supply. The central plains also were somewhat adversely affected by the February dryness.

SNOWFALL.

In the Northeast snowfall was not notably heavy, but owing to the low temperatures there was little melting at any time and deep snow cover remained.

About the 13th to 15th rather heavy snow from Minnesota to New York, continued with cold and high winds, caused great interference with traffic, several lives being lost in the North-Central States.

In the southern Middle Atlantic States, near the Ohio River, and especially in Missouri and Kansas there was decidedly little snow during February, and in Missouri and Kansas and near-by States the snowfall of the entire winter was the least of record.

Early in the month considerable snow for the latitude occurred from south-central Oklahoma to eastern Tennessee and the districts adjacent.

In the western half of the country the most notable snowstorm occurred in Washington and adjacent districts about the 11th to 14th. At lower levels the depths were generally from 12 to 20 inches, and there was much interference with traffic, especially around Spokane where the snow drifted greatly. In the Mountain districts of the far West the February snowfall was nearly everywhere less than normal, notably in Nevada and central and northern California. Somewhat more than normal occurred in Oregon and New Mexico.

The accumulated snowfall in the higher districts is, however, sufficient to promise a moderately good flow of water during the warmer season in all but a few districts.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY.

The relative amount of moisture in the atmosphere during the month was on the whole deficient, although in small areas it was distinctly in excess, among these were areas on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, from the lower Mississippi Valley westward to Arizona, and along the entire northern border, where there were many localities having percentages well above the normal.

In the middle plains the percentages were usually much less than normal, the deficiencies exceeding 20 per cent in some cases, and similar conditions existed over much of California.

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS, FEBRUARY, 1923.

[The table herewith contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A more complete statement will appear in the Annual Report of the Chief of Bureau.]

Place.	Date.	Time.	Width of path (yards).	Loss of life.	Value of property destroyed.	Character of storms.	Remarks.	Authority.
Tunica and Tate Counties, Miss.	2					Wind.....	Fifteen persons injured; buildings blown down, and other property losses resulted.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Spokane, Wash.....	12					Blizzard.....	Street car service hampered; business interfered with. No other damage reported.	Do.
Independence, Calif., and vicinity	12					High winds.....	Much damage to ranch houses, power lines, and telegraph poles.	Do.
Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.	13-14					Cold waves and blizzards.	Traffic demoralized; some loss of life; much property damage and many cases of frozen hands and feet. Complete suspension of train service in western Minnesota.	Do. Do.
Bismarck, N. Dak.....	13-14					Blizzard.....	Train service interrupted; some branch lines not in operation for 7 days.	Do.
Baltimore, Md.....	14					High winds.....	Windows broken; trees uprooted; small house unroofed; telephone and telegraph poles down.	Do.
Seattle and Tacoma, Wash...	14					Snow and ice.....	Wires broken; car service stopped; trains delayed; business interrupted.	Do.
Pittsburgh, Pa.....	14-15					High wind.....	Plate-glass windows and signs damaged; telegraph and telephone poles down; numerous fires caused partly by high winds.	Do.

STORMS AND WEATHER WARNINGS.

WASHINGTON FORECAST DISTRICT.

Storm warnings.—Storm warnings were issued for the Atlantic coast from the Virginia Capes northward on the 2d and 3d in connection with a disturbance of considerable intensity which moved rapidly east-northeastward over the Lake Region and northern New England. However, no winds of verifying velocity were reported.

The next warnings were issued for the coast from Cape Hatteras to Atlantic City at 10 a. m. of the 5th, at which time a disturbance was central over the eastern Gulf of Mexico and a strong high-pressure area was over the Lake Region and the Middle Atlantic States. These warnings were verified.

At 1 p. m. of the 12th pressure was quite high over northern New England and falling very rapidly over the Lake region and the Ohio Valley and southeast storm warnings were ordered displayed from the Virginia Capes to Eastport, Me. Verifying velocities were reached at a number of stations, the highest, 48 miles an hour from the southeast, occurring at Nantucket, Mass.

On the 14th pressure was abnormally high west of the Appalachian Mountains and low over New England, and northwest storm warnings were displayed from Cape Hatteras to Nantucket, Mass. The highest velocities reported were 72 miles an hour at New York City and 60 miles at Block Island, R. I., both from the northwest.

The last storm warnings of the month were ordered displayed at 10 p. m. of the 17th on the Atlantic coast